

AROUND IDAHO

1 Dentist admits filing false claims for Medicaid funds

POST FALLS — A former Post Falls dentist has pleaded guilty to making false claims with the state of Idaho to fraudulently obtain federal Medicaid insurance money.

Darnell C. Dick, 36, pleaded guilty in federal court in Boise last week to one felony count for the claims he made through Darnell Dick Family Dentistry and Northwest Family Dental Inc. He will be sentenced June 13 for bilking the insurance program for America's poor.

Dick has already agreed to pay \$280,000, including \$50,000 in Medicaid investigation costs, to

settle a pending federal civil lawsuit against him.

Officials allege Dick made multiple false claims to the Idaho Medicaid program between November 1999 and February 2001 for dental services that were not provided to Medicaid patients or that were not provided as billed.

The federal false claims suit alleged that Dick filed more than 1,000 false, exaggerated or duplicated billings to Medicaid.

2 Tests prove inconclusive in woman's 1988 slaying

NEZPERCE — An Idaho Death Row inmate who claimed DNA from fingernail scrapings would exonerate him in his girlfriend's 1988 slaying will remain behind bars for now after recent tests proved inconclusive, the inmate's lawyer says.

George Junior Porter, 48, was convicted more than a decade ago of killing Theresa Lynn Jones. The then-29-year-old woman died after being struck in the head.

Another man initially admitted to killing Jones, but later recanted, and Porter was found guilty.

In 2002, Porter filed a petition asking for DNA testing of fingernail scrapings from Jones. Such testing wasn't available at the time of his trial.

But test results made public this week showed the scrapings were from Jones herself, said Bruce Livingston, a federal public defender

representing Porter.

In addition, two of three public hairs from the scene were also tested, Livingston said. One belonged to Jones, he said, while the other test was inconclusive.

Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney Kimron Torgerson said more testing will be done on blood found on a guitar case at the scene.

Another hearing is slated for July to discuss additional test results.

3 Man to face lesser charge in Blackfoot slaying

BLACKFOOT — A southeastern Idaho man faces trial on a second-degree murder charge after a judge decided the evidence did not support the initial charge of first-degree murder.

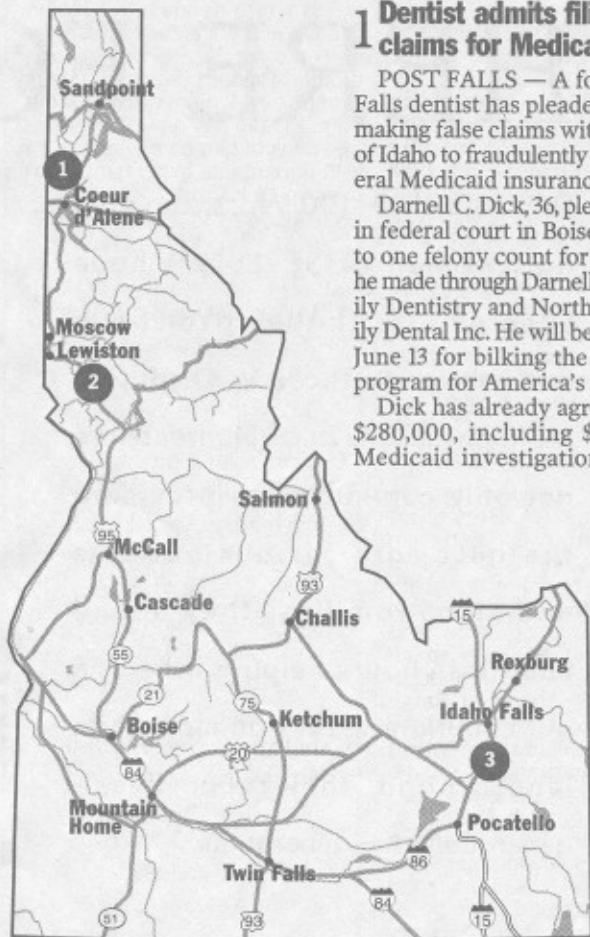
Michael Williams, 32, is accused of shooting Christopher Adams, 25, outside a Blackfoot bar on Feb. 26.

Judge Charles Roos decided Thursday at a preliminary hearing to reduce the charge after considering defense contentions that the shooting wasn't premeditated.

"It's no longer a death penalty case at this stage," Roos said.

Adams was shot after an altercation in the parking lot of the bar. Detective Brad Bench, who interviewed Williams after his arrest, testified Williams said he showed the gun as a deterrent before shooting Adams.

— The Associated Press



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